

CLAIMS

5 1. Detergent composition, capable of exhibiting  
enhanced bleachable stain removal in the substantial  
absence of oxygen bleaches, containing surface-active  
agents, builders, conventional additives and optional  
components, characterized in that the composition  
10 comprises

I: of from 0.1 % to 5 % by weight of a fructan component  
selected from the group of:

15 (a) carboxyalkylinulin, wherein the alkyl moiety contains  
from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

(b) dicarboxyinulin having a degree of oxydation from 10  
% to 100 %, expressed as a molar percentage of  
20 monosaccharide units converted into the corresponding  
analogues;

(c) 6-carboxyinulin; and

25 (d) fructan polycarboxylic acid, having a degree of  
oxidative substitution of from 0.2 to 2.0 and a degree of  
carboxyalkylation or carboxyacylation of from 0.2 to 3.0;  
and

30 II: of from 0.1 % to 5 % by weight of a phosphonate  
selected from the group of:

(i)  $(R_2)_a-N-(R_1-PO_3H_2)_{n-a}$ ;

35 wherein  $R_1$  is an alkylene group having from 1  
to 4 carbon atoms,  $R_2$  is an alkylene group having

from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a is 0, or 2 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

(ii) phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid;

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(iii) an alkylene polyphosphonate wherein the alkylene chain contains from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and the component contains at least two phosphonate groups;

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(iv) an alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate; and

(v) a mixture of such phosphonates.

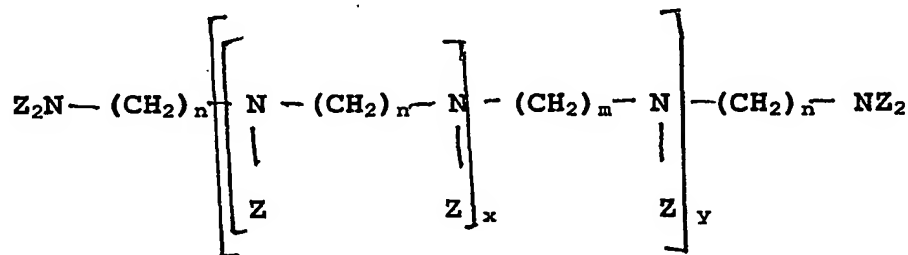
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2. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of components I to II is in the range of from 20 : 1 to 1 : 6, preferably of from 10 : 1 to 1 : 4; more preferably of from 8 : 1 to 1 : 1

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3. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate is represented by the following formula:

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wherein

Z is  $-\text{CHR}^1\text{PO}_3\text{R}_2$

R is H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ , or M;

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M is a metal ion or ammonium;

$\text{R}^1$  is H,  $\text{CH}_3$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$ ;

n is 1-6, preferably 2-4;  
m is 2-6, preferably 2-4;  
x is 0-6, preferably 0-3;  
y is 0-6, preferably 0-1.

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4. The composition in accordance with Claims 1 and 3 wherein the polyphosphonate is selected from the group of: ethylenediamino tetramethylenephosphonate; diethylene triamino pentamethylenephosphonate; dihexyleneethylene  
10 tetraamino hexamethylenephosphonate; bishexamethylene triaminopentamethylene phosphonate; phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid; and amino(trismethylenephosphonic acid.

15 5. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the fructan component is selected from carboxyalkylinulin having 1 or 2 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety and having a degree of substitution of from 1.5 to 2.8 and dicarboxyinulin having a degree of oxidation (DO)  
20 of from 20 % to 90 %.

6. The composition in accordance with Claims 1 and 5 wherein the fructan component is present in a level of  
25 from 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight and the polyphosphonate is present in 0.1 to 2;0 % by weight.